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Army and State Dept. reviews completed

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SC #09881/61
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27 November 1961

WEEKLY CHRONOLOGY OF REPORTS CONCERNING THE BERLIN SITUATION
RECEIVED DURING WEEK OF 21 NOV - 27 NOV

11 Nov The US Mission reported that there had been a healthy increase in West Berlin's private sight deposits,, a smaller increase in private time deposits, and a small decline in savings deposits during the second half of October. Generally, the modest recovery of bank accounts and stock prices seemed to indicate that whatever tendency there had been for a flight of capital from Berlin probably had disappeared. The September index of industrial orders increased over August. (OUO)

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17 Nov

A two-man USMLM tour, covering Soviet exercise activity in the Hohenseeden area west of Brandenburg, was detained for 4 1/2 hours by Soviet authorities. The attitude of the Soviet sentries who originally detained the tour was proper at all times, but an officer summoned by the sentries was curt, inconsiderate and impolite. (CONF)

ADN's Stockholm correspondent commented that "West Germany's provocative activities in the Baltic area and in the littoral NATO states during the last few days fully confirm the Soviet Government's warnings in its notes to Finland. Naval 'Waterproof' maneuvers in the southern Baltic ended today in the course of which land and naval units of West Germany, Denmark and Great Britain practiced landings under West German NATO command under warlike conditions with six West German landing craft." (CONF)

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18 Nov

ADN announced that Berliner Zeitung was preparing to publish a series of articles on armaments production in West Berlin, promising that "it will at the same time be made clear that the western powers not only permit the misuse of the territory in the middle of the GDR, which is occupied by them, for war preparations, but also promote this within the framework of NATO." (CONF)

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19 Nov

At approximately 1900 hours a USCOB patrol in East Berlin evaded attempts by two civilian vehicles occupied by uniformed East Germans to box it in. The East Germans attempted to tear off the patrol's radio antenna. At 1930 hours US military police detained a speeding Soviet military vehicle in the US Sector. One of the occupants, the Soviet POLAD, Lt. Col. Alekseev, denied speeding, claimed that the Soviets never detained US vehicles and sought to prevent incidents, demanded that a US interpreter deliver a strong protest to the US POLAD and threatened to have all US vehicles in East Berlin stopped. The Soviet car was released at 2100. Twenty minutes later it was stopped a second time for speeding--this time in the vicinity of US Headquarters--and detained until 2200. In the meantime, the USCOB patrol molested earlier re-entered East Berlin, where two East German vehicles with uniformed occupants, driving recklessly, maneuvered it into a dead-end street, boxed it in and ripped off the antenna with a tool evidently provided for the purpose. The East Germans withdrew after an hour and a half. At 0300 on 20 November a Military police stopped a speeding Soviet jeep, detaining it for about two hours. One of its occupants, an interpreter-aide of the Soviet Berlin Commandant, remarked during the detention "We are not children; we understand what is involved." At 0800 MP's halted a speeding Soviet military sedan carrying Soviet Deputy Commandant Colonel Pokrovski, who refused to speak with a US interpreter and MP captain on the scene and expressed his intention of protesting to "one of the US generals in Berlin." When the sedan was released at 0830, Pokrovski went to USCOB. Pokrovski rejected the interpreter's offer to arrange an appointment, claiming the matter was urgent and normal procedures did not apply. He alleged--mistakenly--that in the past US officials had been received at Karlshorst with or without appointment. He also protested an 8-minute wait for an interpreter and the guard's refusal to admit him to the USCOB compound. Later in the morning East Germans in civilian clothing tore a windshield wiper from a US vehicle in East Berlin. That afternoon East Germans in mufti ripped the antenna off another US vehicle. A letter of protest from the US commander was delivered to Karlshorst at 1740 hours. (CONF)

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19 Nov
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USCINCEUR reported that USCOB had been unable to confirm a "vague rumor circulating in West Berlin that East German construction workers had been seen near the Helmstedt-Berlin autobahn in the vicinity of the Babelsberg checkpoint." (CONF)

In a nationwide radio-television address, Johannes Dieckmann, President of the GDR People's Chamber and Deputy Chairman of the State Council, warned that "the situation in the Baltic area has become further aggravated. During the past few weeks and months the West German militarists have made special efforts to include their NATO allies in Denmark and Norway in their adventurous policy....(CONF)

Federal Republic economic ministry officials agreed in principle to a US proposal that Bonn's IZT negotiator be authorized to meet regularly with his East German counterpart in East and West Berlin, but were anxious to find a face-saving method of ending the ban on Leopold's entry into East Berlin. One possibility might be to have the GDR pledge de facto revocation of the 23 August ordinance requiring permits for West Berliners entering East Berlin, as was done in the case of the 29 December 1960 agreement concerning the 8 September 1960 decree on entry of West Germans. The problem is complicated, however, by the controversy in the Federal Republic over the reliability of Leopold, who "tends to exceed or ignore instructions" and "talks too much." (CONF S/S)

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20 Nov The US element at Marienfelde processed 44 refugees--28 of whom claimed to have crossed after 13 August. (CONF)

East Berlin ADN in German to East Germany announced that "in the evening hours Sunday three young West Berliners succeeded in escaping to the GDR capital. Like many West Germans and West Berliners in recent weeks, these three youths managed to get through the barriers set up by Bonn authorities...." (CONF)

US and French officials of the Allied Travel Office in West Berlin favored rejection of an application for Temporary Travel Documents (TTD) for Egon Kleuckling, assigned to the staff of the East German trade office in Copenhagen. The British representative favored issuance of the documents. The US Mission proposed that the USRO and Embassy in Copenhagen discuss the matter with the Danish Government with a view to having them withdraw their approval of the visa application. (CONF)

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21 Nov

Bonn's recently-appointed Minister of Interior Hermann Hoecherl said he would support any move to make West Berlin the Federal Republic's 11th state. "I favor anything which will strengthen ties between this city and the Federal Republic," he told a press conference in West Berlin. Hoecherl disclosed that he hopes to increase West German border guards on the interzonal border from 13,000 to 20,000 in 1962. (CONF)

ADN claimed that "a spokesman of the US Military Mission in West Berlin on Monday" confirmed that "in traveling to the GDR capital all Americans in West Berlin are to show their passes in the proper manner to the GDR authorities unless they pass the Friedrichstrasse crossing point for foreigners in official cars." (CONF)

Neues Deutschland reported that "The Press Office of the Ministry of Interior announces that between 19 and 21 November 1961 a number of measures to increase security have been taken along the state border between the GDR capital and West Berlin. It is hoped that the solid wall will convince all those people who wish to accuse the GDR of aggressive plans against West Berlin that the GDR has not the slightest intention of intervening in the internal affairs of West Berlin....." Commenting editorially, Neues Deutschland said that GDR authorities had strengthened the wall in order to prevent General Clay and other US military leaders from using West Berlin as a base for "provocations" against East Germany. The SED paper said that Clay "showed his love of force" by sending tanks to Friedrichstrasse and that nuclear war could begin with "a tank thrust." Neues Deutschland said that East-West negotiations must make West Berlin "a city in the middle of the German Democratic Republic." (CONF)

West Berlin police announced that 6 refugees had fled to the West during the preceding 24 hours. (CONF)

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21 Nov
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Following a torchlight rally at Reichskanzler Platz thousands of West Berlin students sought to storm the barricades at the sector border, but were driven back by truncheon-wielding West Berlin riot police. More than 6,000 students, marching on Kaiserstrasse, toward the Brandenburg Gate were stopped about a mile inside West Berlin; another 1,000 reached Zimmerstrasse and threw their torches over into East Berlin, shouting "Down with the Communist Wall!" East German VOPOS used a water cannon and tear gas grenades in an effort to disperse the mob. West Berlin motorists tooted their auto horns. (CONF)

West Berlin police announced that one VOPO and five East German civilians fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. (CONF)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 23 refugees--19 of whom claimed to have crossed after 13 August. (CONF)

British Foreign office officials engaged in preparing briefing papers for the Prime Minister's meeting with DeGaulle told US Embassy officers in London that insofar as Berlin was concerned MacMillan's principle "tactical" objective would be to persuade the French President to agree to western four power-initiative for negotiations with the USSR. (SECRET S/S)

East German construction crews placed steel "I" beams in a zigzag, baffle, pattern across the right inbound lane of the autobahn about 150-200 yards north of the Babelsberg checkpoint. A temporary wooden barrier was raised across the left lane, forcing vehicles from the right into the left and then back into the right lane. British observers felt that the construction was intended to prevent further "crashing" escape attempts into West Berlin. The US Mission commented that "it may be more difficult for Allied traffic to insist on preferential passage through the barrier. In the past, Allied vehicles would bypass German traffic; on arrival at the checkpoint barrier they would usually be waved on to the Soviet control shack or received and conducted to the Soviet shack by a Soviet soldier.

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If all traffic is funneled through the /new/
baffle, Allied traffic may have difficulty
keeping separated from German traffic in ap-
proaching and entering the checkpoint." (CONF)

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22 Nov

West Berlin police dispersed a group of 20 youths attempting to dislodge heavy concrete blocks from the "wall" at the US Sector district of Kreuzberg. (CONF)

East Berlin workers strung a 120-yard barbed wire fence along the east bank of the Spree, where the river forms the border with the US Sector of West Berlin. (CONF)

The US Berlin Mission reported that two weeks earlier USCOB had undertaken two-car surveillance of all Soviet vehicles entering the US Sector. Vehicles were picked up at Friedrichstrasse by one marked military police car with uniformed personnel, and one unmarked civilian car with a West Berlin plate and a CID driver in mufti. Both tailed the Soviet vehicle for a short distance, after which the MP car dropped out if no traffic violation was noted. All MP patrols were ordered to stop speeding Soviet vehicles and instruct their occupants on traffic regulations. The CID vehicles played no part in such detentions. During the weekend of 18-19 November, all Allied vehicles entering East Berlin were tailed--though only US cars were harassed. Tailing and harassment ceased abruptly late on the night of 21 November, and the East German tail-vehicle motor pool near Friedrichstrasse was disbanded. USCOB, therefore, suspended tailing and detention of Soviet vehicles in West Berlin, except for increased surveillance by MP vehicles in the area of US installations. (CONF)

The US Berlin Mission commented that the nature of the reinforcements added to the Berlin wall on 19-21 November, coupled with East German press treatment, tended to confirm its impression of the Ulbricht regime's acute nervousness over the possibly explosive impact of even a symbolic penetration of the area immediately adjacent to Friedrichstrasse by US military vehicles. The Mission pointed out that the small area bounded by the renewed construction, contains government and party offices which would be especially vulnerable to "surprise incursions" from the US Sector. Since the principal S-Bahn and U-Bahn lines and main arterial roads in East Berlin converge on it, the regime may have been alarmed by the

22 Nov
Con't

prospect that incidents at Friedrichstrasse, or a symbolic demolition of part of the wall by US forces, could lead to the massing of potential refugees willing to attack security forces stationed at party and government offices. (CONF)

West Berlin police posted signs advertising a reward for the capture of GDR Minister of State Security Erich Mielke for questioning in connection with the murder of three Berlin policemen on 9 August 1931. (CONF)

A communique issued at the conclusion of the Kennedy-Adenauer meeting said in part: "The President and the Chancellor reaffirmed their clear determination to insure the continuance of a free and vigorous life for the population of Berlin. They are in accord on the basic elements which will permit a peaceful resolution of this crisis through negotiations if there is reasonableness on the part of the Soviet Union. They agreed on the measures which should be taken in pursuing this objective in a manner consistent with the legitimate interests of all parties concerned....They reaffirmed the ultimate goal of their governments of achieving by peaceful means the reunification of Germany on the basis of self-determination."

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At 1940 hours an inbound PanAm corridor flight 13 miles from Tempelhof at an altitude of 1500 feet saw tracer firing approximately one mile off the left wingtip. The firing emanated from an area known to be a Soviet tank testing ground. The US element at the Berlin Air Safety Center asked the Soviet representatives to investigate the incident and prevent its recurrence. (CONF)

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22-23
Nov

A US Army duty train, outbound from Berlin to Frankfurt with 74 military and civilian passengers, was stranded for 13 hours at the Soviet checkpoint at Marienborn with an East German stowaway aboard. The stowaway smashed a coach window and entered the train as it slowed or was stopped near Magdeburg. When the train arrived at Marienborn, the first scheduled stop before proceeding to the US checkpoint at Helmstedt on the East-West German frontier, the Soviet controller--alerted by the East German conductor--demanded that the would-be refugee be turned over to local authorities. The train commander, without acknowledging the stowaway's presence, insisted that the train be allowed to pass through the checkpoint. The Soviet controller replied that he was not competent to deal with the matter and that nothing more could be done until daylight, when a "more senior" Soviet officer would arrive. Subsequently a Soviet Lieutenant Colonel demanded that the train commander surrender the "criminal" hiding on the train. The engine, supplied by the East German railroad directorate, was removed; it later was returned to provide power for the train's heating system.

Acting on instructions from CINCUSAREUR, the Chief of the US Military Liaison Mission arrived at Marienborn and promised the Soviets that he would surrender the East German to them if a search of the train disclosed a stowaway. This he did, and the train was allowed to proceed through the checkpoint to West Germany. (CONF)

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23 Nov

Aerial and ground observation disclosed that permanent steel pipe barriers mounted on 3-foot up-rights set in concrete had been installed on both sides of the autobahn between Berlin and the Soviet/GDR checkpoint at Babelsberg. Berlin traffic bound for Babelsberg is diverted into the right and then into the left lane; while Berlin-bound traffic, after leaving the checkpoint, is forced first into the left and then into the right hand lane. The US Mission reported that work blocking the right--Berlin-bound--lane of the autobahn was in progress at Helmstedt. (CONF)

At 2300 hours East Berlin's domestic service charged that the incident of the US Army duty train at Marienborn was "the newest misuse of the corridors between West Germany and West Berlin by the US military authorities...obviously another provocation against the GDR. It is significant enough that the incident occurred after the return of General Clay from the United States; as is known, Clay also was responsible for the provocations at the GDR state border at the Berlin Friedrichstrasse." (CONF)

East and West Berlin police exchanged about 60 tear gas grenades on the border of the French sector district of Reinickendorf, after the East Germans lobbed grenades over the wall at a West Berlin municipal government loudspeaker truck broadcasting news bulletins. (CONF)

Steel-helmeted EGA personnel removed a 10-foot high wooden screen from in front of the Brandenburg Gate, disclosing a solid, 9-foot high and 10-foot thick tankproof concrete barricade with a 3-foot gap at one side of the semi-circular wall. (CONF)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 29 refugees--14 of whom claimed to have crossed into West Berlin after 13 August. (CONF)

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USCINCEUR reported the following schedule for US
Army Duty Trains:

<u>Departure</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Time</u>
Bremerhaven	1948Z	Berlin	0512Z
Frankfurt	2014	Berlin	0652
Berlin	2040	Bremerhaven	0540
Berlin	1807	Frankfurt	0536

(CONF)

23-26
Nov

At the SED central committee's fourteenth plenum, Ulbricht strongly emphasized the necessity of a German peace treaty but quoted Khrushchev's phrase that the USSR "would not absolutely insist on signing a peace treaty by 31 December 1961." Referring to Berlin, he declared: "It is in the interests of both sides, before the conclusion of a German peace treaty, to arrive at special agreements on a peaceful solution of the West Berlin question and to agree on corresponding guarantee declarations; such agreements must then become an integral part of the peace treaty and thus achieve international legal validity." He set forth an extreme bargaining position for the GDR to use in possible negotiations, denying the existence of any special or original Western rights in Berlin, calling for gradual reduction of Western forces in West Berlin, elimination of Western "subversive" activities against the GDR originating in West Berlin and use of access routes only by agreement with the GDR. On the subject of Western recognition of the GDR, however, he used the phrase "respect of sovereignty of the GDR" but did not refer to "recognition" as such. Concerning the GDR's claim to sovereignty over East Berlin, he was uncompromising. (CONF)

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24 Nov East Berlin's domestic service radio charged that Bonn's Minister of Justice Stammberger had "misused" the Berlin air corridor for a "provocatory visit to West Berlin, which is not part of the territory of the Federal Republic." (CONF)

British troops moved building materials into the area of the Brandenburg Gate, preparatory to erecting a watchtower overlooking the wall across Hindenburg Platz. (CONF)

The Danish Military Mission in West Berlin notified the US Mission that the GDR trade office in Copenhagen was sending home a staff member who "had a nervous breakdown." Accordingly, the US Mission planned to issue a TTD to Egon Kleuckling to replace the ailing functionary in Copenhagen. (CONF)

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24 Nov
Con't

Commenting on the US Mission's press release concerning the train incident, East Berlin's domestic service chortled that "Thus Clay confirmed at the same time that the transport of civilians through the air over GDR territory is illegal. Yesterday the Americans had to extradite a German who was on a US military train; US authorities had thus to respect the sovereignty of the GDR. For the West Berlin administration chief and the frontline city newspapers, the statement of US General Clay was a cold shower. They clearly hinted today that the Marienborn incident will be the basis for new provocations." (CONF)

Hamburg DPA reported "considerable ill-feeling among refugees at the Marienfelde refugee camp over the handling of the refugee at Marienborn. Many refugees show no understanding for the arguments of the Americans." (CONF)

By appointment, Colonel Solovyev paid an hour's call on General Watson. The Soviet Berlin Commandant protested US helicopter flights in the vicinity of the Babelsberg checkpoint on 23 November and commented that he "would have another look" at the Berlin flight rules when told such flights were filed in advance with BASC and perfectly in keeping with Four-Power agreements. Solovyev professed no knowledge of new barriers on the autobahn near the Babelsberg checkpoint, attempting to pass them off as an East German affair. When pressed, he agreed to go and inspect the checkpoint. He proceeded to Babelsberg from US Headquarters. Replying to General Watson's 20 November protest over harassment of US vehicles in East Berlin, Solovyev made the usual disclaimer of competence and suggested that such matters be pursued with GDR authorities. He said that Soviet personnel are not concerned with traffic regulations, but said he couldn't say the same for US military police in West Berlin. Referring to the detention of Soviet vehicles on 19-20 November, Solovyev accused the military police of provocative behavior and said that in one instance an MP had threatened a Soviet officer with a weapon. He protested and warned of unpleasant consequences which would ensue should there be a recurrence. Later, Solovyev said that the Soviets could

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24 Nov
Con't

detain an American vehicle in East Berlin whenever US military police detained a Soviet car in West Berlin. He supposed that neither he nor General Watson were interested in creating such incidents, which lead to bad relations, and agreed with the USCOB's observation that neither side could win by such exchanges. Solovyev resisted General Watson's efforts to clarify the issue of US autobahn "assistance patrols," maintaining that the question raised by such patrols did not involve the right of free passage but rather of control of the autobahn. He said that the Soviets had sent a number of their own patrols to the autobahn as a result of Watson's protests and had concluded that there was no necessity for either side to use assistance vehicles. Finally, Solovyev--after denying competence in the matter--agreed that it might be "possible" for West Berlin municipal authorities to deal directly with their eastern counterparts on the question of passes for inter-sector visits. (CONF)

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25 Nov The US Berlin Mission reported that construction of autobahn barriers north of the Soviet/GDR checkpoint at Babelsberg had been completed with the addition of metal lift gates on the center strip opposite the new barriers in the outside lanes. The mission commented that the autobahn now can be closed by lowering the gates to block the inside lanes, whereas previously it could be closed only by use of lift gates at either end of the checkpoint. (CONF)

400 VOPOS and EGA troops raised from 5 to 8 feet a 35-yard long section of the wall at Klemckestrasse opposite the French sector and reinforced the barricade with steel girders. (CONF)

West Berlin police announced that 19 refugees had fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. (CONF)

Reuters reported that during the preceding 20 days continual, but unconfirmed, reports of drastic food shortages in the provinces had swept East Berlin--where the food situation is comparatively normal and where no trials for hoarding of food-stuffs have been reported. (CONF)

West Berlin police reported that 11 East German youths, 17-22, had fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. (CONF)

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27 Nov West Berlin police reported that **22** refugees had fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. (CONF)

Neues Deutschland revived four-year old proposals for making the Baltic a "sea of Peace." (CONF)

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4 December 1961

WEEKLY CHRONOLOGY OF REPORTS CONCERNING THE BERLIN SITUATION
RECEIVED DURING WEEK OF ~~18 NOV - 21 NOV~~

28 Nov - 4 Dec

CORRECTION:

The following item, which appeared in the Weekly Chronology of Reports Concerning the Berlin Situation Received During the Week of 21 Nov - 27 Nov should read:

23 Nov Aerial and ground observation disclosed that permanent steel pipe barriers mounted on 3-foot uprights set in concrete had been installed on both sides of the Autobahn between Berlin and the Soviet/GDR checkpoint at Babelsberg. Berlin traffic bound for Babelsberg is diverted into the right and then into the left lane, while Berlin-bound traffic, after leaving the checkpoint, is forced first into the left and then into the right hand lane. The US Mission reported that work blocking the right --Berlin-bound--lane of the Autobahn was in progress at the Helmstedt end of the check-point. (CONF)

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8-15
Nov

The West Berlin stock market continued a rapid rise attributed to rumors of a softening of the Soviet position on Berlin--with Swiss interests reputedly especially active. The West Berlin Transport Co. estimates that its 1962 deficit will exceed DM 40 million, compared to DM 17 million for 1961, according to the US Mission. A substantial boycott of the S-Bahn continues--a boycott not favored by West Berlin transport officials since it increases their problems. A decline in construction trade orders suggests that there may be more than a seasonal drop this winter. From 29 Oct. to 4 Nov. there was a net loss of 921 West Berlin residents; during October, PAA flew out 100 tons of household furniture, compared to 30 tons in Oct. 1960. (OUO)

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18 Nov

USAREUR reported that the East Germans were using automatic cameras at Friedrichstrasse to photograph visitors to East Berlin. (CONF)

French Headquarters in Berlin received a letter from East Berlin's Reichsbahndirektion requesting permission to demolish the water tower and other vacant buildings on the Reichsbahn right-of-way at Gesundbrunnen. The French were prepared to grant the request with the proviso that the demolition be completed within a set time. (CONF)

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24 Nov

A USMLM tour was detained by East German authorities for one hour at Naundorf. The tour, under surveillance from the time it crossed Glienicke Bridge had not been in a restricted area. MFS personnel in Vopo uniform, directed the tour to stop after it inadvertently ignored a 30 km. per hour speed zone sign shortly after entering the East German zone. The tour complied and was lectured for exceeding the speed limit, after which the tour admitted its mistake, and was released. Upon exiting the village of Naundorf at 1600, the surveillance team again stopped the tour, alleging another violation of the speed limit and told it to wait at the side of the road for one hour "to better remember the speed limits." A tour officer requested the Soviet commandant and one of the MFS personnel replied that he would be summoned. After an hour, the surveillance personnel approached the tour sedan and stated that the Soviet commandant had been summoned but had no time to come. Thereupon, the tour was released. On that date three surveillance teams, consisting of known East German MFS personnel, were posted at Glienicke Bridge and followed three USMLM tours. The British and French Military Liaison Missions are not known to have been followed. (CONF)

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25 Nov

The director of the Senat's Bank Supervisory Board told a US Mission that preparations to set up a new Federal bank supervisory office in West Berlin effective 1 January 1962 are underway. Establishment of the office will depend on the Federal Constitutional Court's decision on objections to Federal, rather than Laender, supervision of banking. The Kommandatura and Senat already have approved application of the Federal Credit Law in West Berlin.
(CONF)

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26 Nov West Berlin police used tear gas grenades to drive East German VOPOS from the roof of the Versoehnungs-kirche near Bernauerstrasse from which they were pelting West Berlin pedestrians seeking to lay memorial wreaths at the sector wall adjacent to the church cemetery. (CONF)

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27 Nov

The US, UK and French POLADS discussed identification procedures and practices for Allied personnel entering East Berlin on foot or by rail. Identification procedures are identical for civilians--all may show documents to VOPOS. Practice varies somewhat, however. At the present time, the French--in keeping with instructions from Paris--do not go into East Berlin except on official business. No US military personnel in civilian clothes, their dependents or USCOB civilian employees may enter East Berlin by foot or rail. US Mission personnel have been requested to avoid entering by foot at Friedrichstrasse. The British have banned travel to East Berlin by their military or civilian personnel since 16 November. When the ban is lifted, however, British civilians again will be authorized to show identification. British military entering on rail will be permitted to show identification, while those entering on foot will not show identification. US and French military personnel in uniform do not show identification. (CONF)

Zamyatin, an official of the American Countries Section of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told a US Embassy officer in Moscow that his government expects the West to make the next move on Germany and Berlin. He said that Khrushchev would be busy until 6 December and that the Soviets, who have "already waited a long time," are prepared at any time to enter into discussions about negotiations. (CONF)

West Berlin police reported that 22 East Germans had fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. (CONF)

27 Nov
Con't

An East German bus driver and his assistant rammed their empty vehicle into a section of the barbed wire surrounding Steinstuecken and fled into the exclave. They were removed with another refugee by USCOB helicopter the following day. East German police pulled the bus back into the Zone.
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28 Nov

Sueddeutsche Zeitung frontpaged the Watson-Solovyev discussion of Mayor Brandt's proposals for restoring inter-sector movement, predicting that the East Berlin Magistrat will insist that offices for issuing sector border passes be located in West Berlin and not on the border itself. (CONF)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 31 refugees--all of whom claimed to have crossed after 12 August. (CONF)

The US Mission reported that the Berlin business community fears that any new status for the city, resulting from East-West negotiations, will leave East Germany in control of land access and no West Berliner can conceive of it operating such controls with any measure of good will, regardless of formal agreements. If a new status does not improve existing access, there will be a danger of the present high rate of investment declining drastically even with a resultant loss of economic activity, eventual unemployment, and the flight of individuals and firms. (CONF S/S)

A government spokesman in Bonn announced that 35,700 Bundeswehr enlisted men and draftees whose 18-month tours expire on 31 December will be recalled immediately for an additional 3 months. At the beginning of 1962 the Bundeswehr will number between 372-375,000. (CONF)

West Berlin police reported that 8 refugees, including two border guards, fled to the west during the preceding twenty four hours. East German guards seized three young would-be refugees as they sought to scale the wall across Potsdamer Platz. (CONF)

ADN published a 5-page report, interspersed with editorial comments, on President Kennedy's interview with Izvestia editor Adzhubei. ADN omitted the President's remarks on Berlin and the lack of free elections in Eastern Europe. (CONF)

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NOFORN

28 Nov
Con't

Soviet personnel completed construction of a 63-foot high observation tower northeast of the Teltow Canal, several hundred yards from McNair Barracks, permitting visual observation of US troop activities in the Goerz Allee area. (SECRET)

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29 Nov

East German border guards installed barbed wire along the sidewalks of the Glienicke Bridge sector-zonal crossing point. (CONF)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 25 refugees--all of whom claimed to have fled after 12 August. (CONF)

Havel River barge traffic reportedly was interrupted for several hours because of nearby East German or Soviet maneuvers. (CONF)

In its first policy statement, the new West German government presented three fundamental principles--1) the security of the Federal Republic; 2) the maintenance of the existing political, legal and economic ties between West Berlin and the Federal Republic, including free civilian access; and 3) the maintenance of a joint policy with regard to reunification, non-recognition of the East German regime and eventual settlement of frontier questions in an all-German peace treaty--which "in no event could be abandoned." (UNCL)

TASS commented that the Bonn policy statement "not only leaves intact the former dangerous military and political course but makes it even more aggressive... An old and unrealistic position is taken by the German Federal Republic Government on the question of reunification of the country... The statement crudely distorts the Soviet proposals for a peaceful settlement with Germany. Bonn tries to hide its stubborn rejection of a peaceful settlement behind contentions that this allegedly would be to 'perpetuate Germany's division.' Moreover, the statement slanderously asserts that the Soviet Union intends to achieve the peaceful settlement with Germany 'by force.' The Federal Government at the same time declares that it envisages /negotiations on Berlin/ only on condition of the preservation of the existing occupation status in West Berlin and the preservation of all 'political, legal and economic ties' of the German Federal Republic with West Berlin, including

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uncontrolled access to it by private citizens from Federal Germany. The statement says that the Federal Government is 'ready to undertake the necessary sacrifices and risks to protect these interests.' Thus the Adenauer Government does not stop at the risk of war to preserve the occupation regime in West Berlin, a regime which has far outlived its time." (CONF)

CINCUSAREUR reported that observation that day revealed no evidence of construction at the western (Helmstedt-Marienborn) end of the Autobahn. (CONF)

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The US Mission reported [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] considerable ditch digging in Unter den Linden in the vicinity of the Soviet Embassy and Opera House but knew of no permanent barriers erected in the area. (SECRET S/S)

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British Labor Party leaders strongly endorsed President Kennedy's suggestion for international control over Berlin access, saying the suggestion might be the vital key to maintaining the city's economic health and freedom. (CONF)

The East Germans erected a three-foot high iron railing across Unter den Linden at Wilhelmstrasse behind the Brandenburg Gate, replacing a double barrier of wooden obstacles and concrete slabs laid down before the western side of the Gate was sealed off. The iron railing left space for authorized vehicular and pedestrian traffic. (CONF)

The Soviet news agency TASS described the "provocative" movement of US troops along the Autobahn to and from West Berlin as "fraught with dangerous consequences" and a "trick..to cover up US determination to maintain uncontrolled communications between West Berlin and West Germany." (CONF)

Accompanied by the US, POLAD, one other US Mission officer and a civilian interpreter, the US Commandant, General Watson, entered East Berlin and drove to Karlshorst to confer for slightly over an hour with Colonel Solovyev. After asking Watson on a "personal" basis to tell the British Commandant that he was not competent to deal with a UK protest over the East German detention of two tourists and that Brigadier "Delacombe should address his complaint to other authorities," Solovyev said that President Kennedy's interview with Izvestia editor Adzhubei gave grounds to expect "many good changes" in the future. Replying to Watson's remarks about construction at Babelsberg, Solovyev said that the checkpoint was not only for US, UK and French traffic which is controlled by the Soviets, but also for West German and West Berlin traffic subject to GDR control. The new barriers are intended to improve conditions for control of other traffic, he said, and had been erected without consultation with Soviet authorities. US personnel are not subject to East German control, Solovyev said, adding that he presumed that Allied

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vehicles would be given priority at the checkpoint. The Soviet Commandant told General Watson that an incident involving surveillance of a USCOB patrol in East Berlin on the night of 28 November--the first such harassment since 20 November--had not arisen from any instructions he'd given. He disclaimed responsibility for VOPO activities, saying that he had not protested the surveillance--only detention--of Soviet vehicles in West Berlin. He made no comment when Watson proposed that the Commandants inform each other when vehicles under the command of one violate traffic regulations in the sector of another. (CONF)

25X6

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1 Dec

West German officials announced that 3,412 East German refugees--the majority of whom fled before 12 August--were registered in West Berlin, Uelzen and Giessen during November. An unidentified West German spokesman claimed that 10-15 East Berliners and East Germans continue to flee daily. (CONF)

US Army Headquarters at Heidelberg announced that troops of the 1st Battle Group of the 24th Infantry Division would replace the 1500-man 2nd Battle Group stationed in West Berlin since late August. The American garrison in West Berlin was renamed the "Berlin Brigade" and subordinated directly to the US Berlin Commandant in order to establish a single line of command between all contingents in West Berlin and USAREUR. (CONF)

Soviet controllers at Babelsberg detained a 9-vehicle convoy composed of elements of Company C, 2nd Battle Group, 6th Infantry headed for four days' training in West Germany, for an hour because of a "minor error" in its travel orders. (CONF)

In an address to East Berlin party officials published in Neues Deutschland on 2 December, Ulbricht commented on President Kennedy's interview with Adzhubei of Izvestia. "If one is seriously prepared for negotiations, it is customary to begin with realistic understanding of the situation," he said, "but Kennedy apparently does not find it easy to draw the inevitable conclusions from the fact that the GDR is growing stronger from year to year." Ulbricht commented favorably on the president's "admission" that two Germany's exist and that he expressed himself in favor of negotiations on Berlin first and thereafter on other questions. He declared, however, that the president's remarks were not in harmony with recent overt military demonstrations and provocations on the part of "US ultras"--notably the claim that "the Autobahn belongs to them." Referring to the president's suggestion for possible international control of the Autobahn, he declared: These are useless speculations that will never happen." (CONF)

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2 Dec

West Berlin municipal authorities announced a census taken in June 1961 showed that West Berlin had 2,197,000 inhabitants and that there were 1,072,000 East Berliners. (CONF)

American officials in West Berlin reported their belief that the construction of new barriers at the Babelsberg checkpoint is preliminary to moving the GDR checkpoint to the north of the Soviet guardpost in order to facilitate East German harassment of outbound Allied traffic. (SECRET)

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3 Dec

Beginning at approximately 1800 hours local time, East German construction crews, working under armed guard, removed the anti-tank maze built at Friedrichstrasse after 27 October and erected a wall, 7 feet high and 3 feet thick, across Friedrichstrasse, 40 yards back from the wall at the sector border in Zimmerstrasse. As a consequence of the construction, traffic entering East Berlin via the Friedrichstrasse crossing point is forced through a narrow gap on the east side of Friedrichstrasse and left in Mauerstrasse, turned sharply right on to Schuetzenstrasse--out of sight of US Checkpoint Charlie--and back into Friedrichstrasse at the GDR checkpoint. Permanent tank traps were embedded in front of the new wall. Similar barriers were erected at the other six East-West Berlin crossing points. (CONF)

ADN announced that "the technical security measures begun Sunday evening along further sections of the GDR's state frontier with West Berlin were carried out quietly, accurately and according to plan. They make the antifascist protective wall set up by the GDR in the interests of peace still firmer and thus safer from the provocations which the West Berlin and West German extremists and imprudent US Army personnel--to judge by their latest actions and utterances--do not yet wish to desist." (CONF)

At approximately 2000 hours local time VOPOS resumed intensive surveillance--and in some cases, detention--of USCOB patrols in East Berlin. Some patrols were tailed throughout East Berlin and detained every few minutes. VOPOS ripped the antennas off three patrol vehicles and broke the tail lights on another. USCOB ordered retaliatory detention of Soviet vehicles in the US Sector. None entered from the East after 1700. (CONF)

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US Military Police in West Berlin detained a Soviet vehicle with three occupants on Schoenbergerstrasse for an hour, blocking it in front and rear. (CONF)

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LIMITED DISTRIBUTION SUPPLEMENT TO BERLIN CHRONOLOGY

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29 Nov Bonn's Ambassador to Washington, Wilhelm Grewe, briefed State Department officers on Adenauer's letter to De Gaulle, noting that the Chancellor thought regular negotiations preferable to further exploratory talks and specified that he and President Kennedy had agreed that "economic and cultural and even essential political ties" between Bonn and West Berlin must remain undisturbed. (SECRET S/S BUO)

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